Pacific Packet Radio Society Newsletter
May 1988

PPRS Meeting announcement:

The May 3 meeting will feature the **Vice President's Special** (no, this is not a handgun) and will be announced at the meeting. PPRS meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Ampex Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City. Please come and enjoy these inspiring nights with your fellow PPRS members. Current leadership: Glenn, AA6ER, President. Dave, N6KL, interim Vice President. Bill, WA6FSP, Treasurer. Chris, N6RAL, Secretary. Mike, KI6AP, Newsletter.

TCP/IP:

TCP/IP USERS, FIND THE LATEST HOSTS.NET IN OUR PACKET SUB/DIR. TO DOWNLOAD TYPE *DP HOSTS.NET* THEN STAND BACK, FOR IT IS 50K LONG!! PLEASE DO NOT DOWNLOAD THIS FILE IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO START UP A TCP/IT SYSTEM IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO FOR IT IS UPDATED ALMOST EVERY DAY. THIS FILE SEEMS BIG FOR A PBBS WORLD (50k) BUT IN THE TCP/IP WORLD IT IS CONSIDERED A SMALL FILE. HOPE TO SEE YOU ON TCP/IP SOON!! '73 ERIC, SYSOP N6OIM @ N6IIU

Save QRM/N and time by DLing the the 51K text file from the MacScience BBS at landline speeds of 1200 or 2400 baud. The entire tcp/ip Mac package is available in four separate postings on MacScience. The 51K Host.Net file will be posted by itself as well as included in the Mac tcp/ip package. Give us a call at MacScience on (408) 247-8307 (San Jose, CA) for the various text and Macintosh tcp/ip files. 73, Ray n6phj @ n6iiu

Wormhole:

From: K3AKK @ N4QQ

We're pleased to see the Wormhole back. I understand that it was a small signal to noise problem at the west end of the link.

Expanded service is available from the K3AF / DCA NetRom nodes. A new node, K3AF-5 / WASHDC has been added. The node operates on 10 meters, 28.103 MHz and is standard 300 baud. A number of stations have been heard. TI2ALG operates a BBS on the channel and DJ3OS-1 (in the Canary Islands) operates a computer based digipeater / switch similar in operation to a Kantronics node. European, South American and west coast U.S. stations have been logged and since Europeans are familiar with NetRom, we can expect some interesting signals as the ten meter band opens a bit more.

Version 1.3 NetRoms are used at all six nodes and commands are: Connect, CQ, Ident, Nodes, Parms, Routes and Users. The CQ command is implemented on DCA 145.07, DCA4 145.67 and WASHDC 28.103 only. Further details on the nodes are available on your local PBBS.

K3AF is the Amateur call of USAF MARS station AIR and the nodes are located at Silver Hill, MD (near Suitland). The antennas are mounted at the the top of a 330 foot tower and are fed with 7/8" hardline. The VHF and UHF frequencies have an operating radius well in excess of 50 miles. (#DCA1 beams northeast and southwest; other frequencies are omni-directional.) All antennas are vertically polarized. 73, Dick, K3AKK

Emergency packet:

From: WA3SCW@WB6ASR

I'm interested in anything anyone has to say about the use of packet radio in emergency communications, either drill or the real thing. We are trying to get organized back here in Anne Arundel county, Maryland. Any info at all would be appreciated. 73 de Bill/WA3SCW (@ N4QQ) ex-WA6LGE

NET/ROM...

Net/Rom is a registered trade mark of *Software 2000.*

From: NU6B@WB6DAO

Greetings to all Node Sysops. I have noticed a blemish appear on the Amateur Packet Radio Service. It started with just one node and has since grown to three. These are nodes are likely in violation of FCC rules which require the callsign of a station to be broadcast every 10 minutes and at the end of a transmission. Callsigns such as BISHOP, TAH0E, and S0CAL are in violation of the rules and were likely employed as an attempt to hide a guilty NET/ROM pirate.

This practice is not good for amateur radio. I wonder if repeater groups would tolerate people without callsigns using the autopatch, remote base or even the repeater in general. One of the high points of amateur radio has been its history of self policing. As a result, the FCC does not make it a rule to scrutinize amateur activities. If the amateur community allows stations without licenses to operate, especially repeaters, the entire service will suffer.

What I would like to see happen here is for the nocall repeaters to get legal callsigns or get off the air. If these repeater operators are pleased to continue in their decadence then it is the responsibility of the legal users of the Amateur Radio Service to make things as hard for them as legally possible while at the same time, protecting the legitimate network from the abuses of a few. May I suggest that all sysops check their routing tables to see if the offending nodes are their neighbors. If they are, the offending nodes should be locked out of the ROUTES list. Once locked out, these nodes will not be used for routing traffic nor will their callsigns be propagated throughout the rest of the system. If they are your neighbors and you have an idea as to their location, they should be dealt with as you would deal with any unlicensed user caught using a amateur system.

If nodes are allowed to get by without legal callsigns, next there will be voice repeaters. Lets keep ham radio above board else we will go the way of 11 meters until the service is about as useful. Jerry Thomas (NU6B), Santa Barbara ARC Digital Repeater Tech Committee.

From: N6RQR @ WA6NWE

This is a response to NU6B's "No Call nodes" message and I felt another view should be made available to all SysOps and other users of Net/Roms. I read your message regarding "no-call" nodes with some interest. While I think your motives are good, your facts aren't. Let me point out a few facts, not conjecture.

1. A node name on a node list does not necessarily represent a transmitter.
2. A repeater is only required to ID locally. I am in range of the reno:tah0e repeater and I see the call letters of the repeater when it IDs. What you see is the node name.
3. A repeater is an unlicensed station. If my memory is any good, the last license issued for a repeater was in 1979. You can put any proper class amateur's call on a repeater. If I own a repeater, and don't want my call on it, I can put my friends call on it as long as he agrees.
4. All of the above have been verified as fact with telephone calls to the FCC.
5. I don't care if they are net/rom pirates, it isn't any of my business, nor is it any of yours.
6. Now possibly the most important fact: these repeaters are put there as a service!!

Even you can use them. If you don't like the way they they are run, then don't use them...but don't deny the the hundreds of others use of them because you don't like the node names. de Ted N6RQR

From: KT7H@KE7OM

Bob, I read your comments about Net/Rom id's, and I want you to give me the name of the FCC employee who told you that a repeater is an unlicensed station, just because they don't issue distinctive repeater calls anymore. They don't issue separate call signs for club stations either, but that doesn't mean you can operate one without a license.

As I recall from when I was licensee for the 2 mtr FM repeater owned by a local club here in Seattle, a repeater needs a responsible licensee in order to be legal. A copy of his license is posted at the repeater location, and he is responsible for controlling it. Please reply, as this major change in the rules really has me curious. 73, Tad KT7H @ KE7OM

From: N7HFZ@N7HFZ

In reading the latest comments on Net/Rom nodes and call signs, I found it impossible to resist throwing in my thoughts. I do agree that a repeater has to ID every 10 minutes. However I take challenge to the portion that says you only have to ID locally. That's for a voice repeater, not a string of Net/Rom nodes.

I have recently seen nodes showing up with no callsign, or bogus ones. This proliferates through the entire link of Net/Rom nodes from California, to Washington (my state) and beyond. Several of these nodes seem to be of Hijacked software illegally put on the airwaves. How can anyone afford the radio, TNC's and site costs and not afford to purchase a set of Net/Roms? If they want their names in lights, why don't they buy the legal version, then they will be able to display their callsign (if they have one)?

I think it's the responsibility of every node operator to lock those routes out, and I strongly urge the node operators to do so. The FCC has bestowed on us our own enforcement so we should take the necessary action as soon as possible. If we don't then we invite the FCC to take strong action on one of the best hobbies that's come into amateur radio in years. I enjoy the use of packet radio, and if it continues to head down hill because of a few bad apples, I'm sure more and more restrictions will be placed on us.

We have enjoyed relatively loose rules on packet and it's worked in most cases, but as more and more users come on things will step up in the "dirty" department. I don't want to see our enjoyable ways of communications fall in the direction of CB radio. Too many of us take the side of "well it's none of my business", or "I'm too busy". If we don't take action, I'm sure Charley WILL, and I'm not sure any of us will like the results.

I would like to see ALL the node operators start to take action against this sort of thing and bring it to a halt as soon as possible. Let's not sit passively by and watch things erode. 73, Steve N7HFZ @ N7HFZ at a legal NNC of SEA:WN7ANK-8

From: N4CHV @ N4CHV

I read the comments by N6RQR in regards to no call NETROM nodes and while some of what he says may have a bit of merit I strongly take issue with his comment about "He doesn't care about NETROM pirates and it not being his business or anyone elses". The Amateur Radio community has long been noted for its monitoring its own operation and correcting errors in the ways of it operators. This being with the help of the ARRL and many other Amateur Radio Operators who have a strong sense of pride in seeing our hobby protected and preserved. The comments you made are reckless and not in the best interest of Amateur Radio. You should be concerned and care very much about your hobby. The attitude that you have shown reflects the very attitude that destroyed CB radio and will destroy Amateur Radio as well. The people who think that they are getting away with something by operating with pirated NETROM nodes should be locked out of every node that they can possibly reach. They are operating with illegal software and they are not using an authorized licensed call when and if they do identify because they are illegal. These people can lose their license, if they do have a license, and face criminal charges in court for operating software without a software license.

I suggest to you that you had better care because your hobby and mine are in jeopardy by these useless people. My 32 years in Amateur Radio would not allow me to listen to what you have said and not respond. You are way off track and I welcome you back to the world of Amateur Radio... Gary @ N4CHV

From: N6QQQ @ WA6RDH

As far as I know, a NET/ROM need only transmit IDs locally every ten minutes. As long as that happens, it doesn't matter what appears in the NET/ROM directories. Perhaps the NET/ROM station(s) involved have a beacon with "id/R" somewhere in it that it sends every ten minutes? As long as the repeaters in question comply with FCC regulations, I see no real reason for controversy or for blackballing those repeaters. They had better be in compliance, but if they are then there's no problem, is there?

From: N4CHV @ N4CHV

Having sent out my original reply and watching all the interesting comments, some to me and some to the community in general, I find that the vast majority addressing the point of repeater identification. That's all well and good but I think that many of you who have replied are missing the point of the "Illegal Software" . Now for you who have doubts as to the fact that these "People" are not running software that they have obtained from what is beginning to look like a clone factory, let me clue you in. These guys are running NETROM Version 1.3. That has been verified and I publicly challenge any of them to prove me wrong. That is theft in my book and the fact still remains that they are not choosing to identify their nodes with a valid callsign.

I have a list available to me of all the "Phoney Nodes" with the owners name and address, also telephone numbers of most of them. This may result in a list being published for all who still have doubts to verify on their own.

Now for all you supporters of these "Phonies", Lets see you defend that! Gary @ N4CHV

From: KB7DZ@N7HFZ

There have been many comments flying around the packet community about bogus NET/ROM network nodes. It seems some folks have substituted a location description for the amateur radio call sign. This then gets propagated thru the NET/ROM node network as the valid call sign of the node. There have been many objections raised about the legality of this. I have seen the issue of illegal call signs knocked down with the claim that you don't have to identify the station only by means of packet radio. I've seen the issue of modified pirated software used in these nodes knocked down with the claim that you can't prove it until you examine the code itself. This is all well and good, but I think the main point is being overlooked.

The main point is one of appearance. If it appears that a bogus call sign or pirated software is being used; then this **in itself** is reason enough to cast doubt on the legality of these stations. Amateur radio has a history of policing it's own. We have every right to raise the warning flag to make sure we are not an innocent party to illegal activities. As long as these stations continue to give this appearance of illegality then we as a packet community should use peer pressure to persuade them to change their mode of operation.

There is no valid argument that would justify NOT using a real amateur call sign with these nodes as hundreds of others have. I would think there is a sense of pride attached with knowing your call sign is being used to further the advances of the packet radio network. Dennis Goodwin, KB7DZ, KB7DZ-8(SEAW) and KB7DZ-7(#SEAW) NET/ROM nodes

From: N6QQQ @ WA6RDH

Dennis (KB7DZ) raises a good point concerning the appearance of impropriety. I do think, however, that it is up to the individuals involved to determine whether they wish to boycott nodes or not. Do we boycott those who do not wish to boycott such nodes? This kind of thing leads in only one direction -- to two separate networks and further confusion and division of resources and labor. You thought the trouble with multiple transmitters on the same hill was bad before? Just wait.

"Taste's great" "Less Filling", 73 DE N6QQQ @ WA6RDH

NCPA:

From: WD6CMU @ WD6CMU

There were several functions identified by the interim board of directors for a packet organization. Many of these were already being done informally by individuals or groups.

1. To act as a clearinghouse for information on packet radio. This would help prevent duplication of effort, allow packeteers to find others with similar interests, etc. It would also allow people outside of the packet community, such as emergency agencies, a central point where their questions about packet could be answered.

2. To allow a concentration of resources to solve problems and advance packet technology. This would make possible solutions that might be outside the capabilities of individuals.

3. To provide a unified body of packet enthusiasts for dealing with outside agencies. This could mean promoting frequency allocations, proposing joint ventures, etc.

4. To act as a forum for the resolution of conflicts between various interests within packet radio. An impartial, knowledgable group of peers can often allow parties to settle their differences.

From: WD6CMU @ WD6CMU Subject: NCPA: What is it?

Perhaps the question would be better stated: What will it be?

At the December 7th Northern California SYSOP Association meeting, the sysops recognized that their interests had widened beyond just the management of BBSs to include packet network development, digipeater installation, etc. It was decided to change the name of the association to the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA). An interim board of directors was elected and given the task of developing a structure with a wider scope that would include all packet users. The board members were WB9LOZ, W0RLI, K6RTV, N7EQN and WD6CMU.

The board met twice in the four months after the meeting and identified several purposes of such an organization and drafted a tentative constitution based of that of similar organizations such as NEPRA, NAPRA, and GRAPES. These were to be presented at the next meeting of NCPA to be discussed, modified, and (hopefully) ratified. It is hoped that all interested amateurs participated in these activities at the meeting Saturday, April 23rd.
Eric Williams WD6CMU, Interim Chairman, NCPA

VK2SG RTTY Dx Rpt. #60, 4/8/88

From: N7FSP @ N4CHV

RTTY DX NOTES FOR WEEK ENDING 8TH APRIL 1988.

BAND CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN FAIR TO POOR FOR THE LAST WEEK, BUT TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK, CONDITIONS SEEMED TO IMPROVE SLIGHTLY. THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR BETTER THINGS TO COME. THANKS TO TG9VT, W1DA, VK2EG AND W2IYX, EDITOR OF THE LONG ISLAND DX BULLETIN.

NETHERLAND ANTILLIES. PJ2CJ HAS BEEN ON 14092 KHZ, USUALLY AROUND 0140Z WITH A FAIR SIGNAL.

MARTINIQUE. FM5WS, GUY, WAS SEEN OPERATING ON 14094 KHZ AT 2020Z WITH A GOOD SIGNAL. QSL TO W4FRU, OR DIRECT PER CALLBOOK.

EGYPT. SU1FN APPEARED FOR MOST OF THE WEEK ON 21408 KHZ, USUALLY AROUND 0550Z WITH A VERY GOOD SIGNAL. QSL VIA CALLBOOK ADDRESS.

ZAMBIA. 9J5KF, KIYO GAVE THE VK BOYS A PLEASANT SURPRISE THIS WEEK WITH HIS BIG SIGNAL ON 14086 KHZ AT 0587Z. QSL TO BOX 350103, CHILANGA, ZAMBIA.

CHINA. BY1SK HAS BEEN ON 14086 KHZ AT 0938Z WITH A BIG SIGNAL. QSL BOX 2916, BEIJING, CHINA.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. 9Y4DG WAS INVERTED ON 14085 KHZ AT 2250Z. HE FINALLY CAME THE RIGHT WAY UP AND WAS EASY TO CONTACT.

TANZANIA. 5H3ZO REAPPEARED ON AMTOR ON 21100 KHZ AT 2135Z. GOOD SIGNAL, BUT LOTS OF QSB.

ST. VINCIENT AND GRENADINES. J88BN, GREG, SHOWED UP ON 14090 KHZ AT 2045Z. QSL VIA WA4WIP.

MOROCCO. CN8BX IS ACTIVE AROUND 14090 KHZ AT 2020Z WITH A GOOD SIGNAL MOST OF THE TIME.

FALKLAND IS. VP8BQE WAS SEEN ON 14081 KHZ AT 2045Z WITH ANTARTIC FLUTTER, BUT GOOD COPY.

ZAIRE. 9Q5DA HAS BEEN OPERATING AROUND 14086 KHZ, USUALLY AROUND 2330Z. QSL VIA KC4NC.

PANAMA. HP1FR, ROLAND, OPERATES AROUND 21089 KHZ AT 1854Z. QSL TO BOX 8266, PANAMA CITY, PANAMA.

HOWLAND ISLAND. NO1Z/KH1 COMPLETED THEIR OPERATION ON THE 4TH OF APRIL, THEN STOPPED AT T30 ON THE WAY HOME. NOW THEY HAVE THE SMALL PROBLEM OF SORTING OUT THE 27,000 PLUS CONTACTS THEY HAD ON HOWLAND. QSL VIA VK9NS.
MIDWAY ISLAND. 7J6CAS/KH4 IS EXPECTED TO START OPERATION ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF APRIL.
KINGMAN REEF. K9AJ/KH5 IS EXPECTED ON APRIL 23 FOR 7 DAYS.

WE HOPE FOR GOOD CONDITIONS FOR THE DXPEDITIONS. GL DE DX1. Written by VK2SG. Copied from the VK2AGE AMTOR mailbox and edited for packet by KT7H. DE N7FSP - SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.

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